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May 17, 2000

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Bell Atlantic's Local Service Provider Freeze, D.T.E. 99-105

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

On May 10, 2000, WorldCom, Inc. ("WorldCom") filed a request ("Letter") with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") to take administrative notice of a copy of an email notice circulated to participants in a New York Public Service Commission proceeding on May 5, 2000, in which Bell Atlantic-New York announced that it voluntarily postponed the effective date of its proposed local service provider freeze ("LSPF") tariff provisions in New York until October 1, 2000. WorldCom asked the Department to require Bell Atlantic-Massachusetts ("Bell Atlantic") also to postpone the effective date of its LSPF offering until October 1, 2000, and to urge Bell Atlantic to withdraw voluntarily its LSPF tariff offering. On May 12, 2000, the Department solicited comments on WorldCom's Letter by May 17, 2000, and asked Bell Atlantic to give the reasons for the delay in New York. (1)

The Attorney General has reviewed WorldCom's Letter and, based on that review, does not object to a delay in the effective date of the Bell Atlantic LSPF offering until October 1, 2000, provided that the preparatory work necessary to implement the LSPF on October 1, 2000 (e.g., pre-approval for sales scripts, quality assurance plans, and educational materials) is not delayed. Assuming that the Department allows Bell Atlantic to offer the LSPF, Bell Atlantic's preparation, including collaborative sessions to approve educational materials, can and should go forward promptly so that the actual effective date is not delayed beyond October 1, 2000.

Regarding WorldCom's request that Bell Atlantic be encouraged to withdraw its tariff "voluntarily," the Attorney General will not join in that request. Withdrawing the LSPF tariff may delay the ability of consumers to use a LSPF to control their choice of their local service providers even further than merely postponing the LSPF's effective date. Bell Atlantic and the

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parties may be reluctant to proceed with LSPF implementation plans if the tariff is withdrawn and its effective date is uncertain. For this reason, the Attorney General does not join in WorldCom's second request.

Sincerely,

Karl en J. Reed
Assistant Attorney General
Regulated Industries Division
Office of the Attorney General
200 Portland Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 727-2200

KJR/kr
cc: Paula Foley, Hearing Officer
Service List for DTE 99-105

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

Investigation by the Department of Telecommunications and)
Energy, on its own motion, as to the propriety of the)
Local Service Provider Freeze terms and conditions set forth)
in the following tariff: M.D.T.E. No. 10, Part A, Section 5,) D.T.E. 99-105
Original of Page 1.1, filed with the Department on)
November 1, 1999, by New England Telephone and Telegraph)

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Company d/b/a Bell Atlantic-Massachusetts)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding by e-mail and either hand-delivery, mail, or fax.

Dated at Boston this 17th day of May 2000.

Karl en J. Reed

Assistant Attorney General

Regulated Industries Division

200 Portland Street, 4th Floor

Boston, MA 02114

(617) 727-2200

1. Bell Atlantic's witness stated during hearing that the New York LSPF tariff was not expected to be implemented until October 2000 to coincide with when the Bell Atlantic-New York voice response unit ("VRU") system would handle placing and lifting the LSPF. Tr. Vol. 1 at 124.